

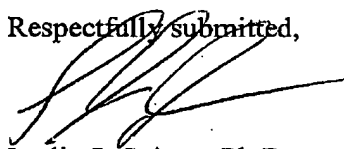
REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the remarks to follow is respectfully requested. Since the present Response raises no new issues, and in any event, places the application in better condition for consideration on appeal, entry thereof is respectfully requested under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

The Examiner indicated in the Final Rejection dated January 14, 2004 that Claims 53-56 are allowable subject matter. The remaining, i.e., Claims 57-59 however stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,945,704 to Schrems, et. al. ("Schrems, et al.") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,174,756 to Gambino, et al. ("Gambino, et al.") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,525,531 to Bronner, et al. ("Bronner, et al."). In response to the Examiner's comments and for the purposes of securing the patentability of Claims 53-56, applicants have canceled Claims 57-59. The canceled claims will be subsequently filed in a continuation application.

Applicants note that Claims 53-56 are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Leslie S. Szivos, Ph.D.
Registration No. 39,394

Scully, Scott, Murphy & Presser
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343

HAH:LSS:kc